

Remarks

Claims 1-14 have already been allowed in the present application. Claim 1 is being cancelled by the present Amendment and claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form in order to highlight a particular aspect of the present invention that further distinguishes the independent claim from what has been previously allowed in a parent of the present application. Claims 2 and 8 have been amended so that they now have claim 13 as their base claims. Additionally, the changes made by Examiner's amendment in the Notice of Allowability are incorporated in the pending claims.

Therefore, it is believed that these do not affect the allowability of these claims and an early indication of their re-allowance is respectfully requested.

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL
NO:**

EV 437668160 US

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald P. Parsons
Reg. No. 24,486

8/10/04
Date

PARSONS HSUE & DE RUNTZ LLP
655 Montgomery Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 318-1160 (main)
(415) 318-1163 (direct)
(415) 693-0194 (fax)